ered with small timber and bamboo. The region is traversed by numerous streams, most of them comparatively short and punctuated by rapids, and, accordingly, is divided into many little valleys. These valleys favor the development of clans and of local dialects, so that it is not strange (although geography is not the sole cause) that the greatest variations in language occur here. The most considerable valley is that of the Hsi Kiang ("West River"). Its broad delta is fertile and densely populated. On its estuary (near where it is joined by other streams from the North) stands the city of Canton. The Hsi Kiang is navigable to the borders of Yunnan. Next in importance ranks the Min» which empties into the sea just below tl^ccitj^ of Foo-
•% r>w. The scenery along its banks is famous.
;.rhe northern portion of Chekiang encloses s^secjieda of the
dtngtze delta. The major part of the province is mountainous.
4$ chief cities are Hangchow and Ningpo. Hangchow, near ifee mouth of the chief river of the province, the Ch'ien-t'ang, ",<n,d flanked on one side by the beautiful West Lake, has been downed for many centuries. Ningpo, on a plain near the mouth r*Va stream farther east, is a populous and well-known port. The ^?isan archipelago, to the north of Ningpo, owes its fame chiefly Ithe island of P?u-t'o, one of the sacred centers of Buddhism.
•Jkien is almost entirely mountainous, and its largest city, Foo-
, 3W, has already been noted. A second port, Amoy, to the south, .! ,3 supplanted as a commercial center the nearby medieval mart hCh'iianchow. Since its foundation over a century ago as a british colony, Hongkong, on a rocky island (late in 1941 cap-

ped by the Japanese), has been an important commercial rival
'anton. On the papulous delta of the West River are still
.r cities, and on a plain near the mouth of another stream, the
n, near the Kwangtung-Fukien border, is Swatow, the entrepot
** a larger metropolis, Ch'aochow. Kwangtung, save for the delta
of which Canton is the metropolis, is chiefly mountainous. To
the south of Kwangtung, separated by a narrow strait, lies the
rugged island of Hainan. The mountainous province of Kwangsi
is really a westward extension of Kwangtung, being made up prin-
cipally of the upper part of the valleys of the West River and its
tributaries. Better supplied with harbors than most of the north
coast and nearer to the East Indies, the Malay Peninsula, Siam,